



2014 Annual Virginia Green Travel Star Awards

Innovative Green Projects of the Year:

Virginia Oyster Shell Recycling Program

Richmond, Virginia

Virginia Green Travel Star Award Summary

- ✓ The *Virginia Oyster Shell Recycling Program* (VOSRP) collects shells from participating restaurants, businesses, oyster roasts and festivals, and returns them to the Bay to construct new oyster reefs in Virginia.
- ✓ Oyster shell recycling promotes the restoration of wild native-oysters in the Chesapeake Bay by taking the shells out of the waste stream. The Richmond regional effort has demonstrated the demand from local businesses to participate in the shell collection program because they see the value in protecting the Chesapeake Bay and reducing the waste being added to the landfill.
- ✓ In slightly less than one year, nearly 20 restaurants, several businesses, state and local governments and nongovernmental organizations have partnered to realize success comes from partnerships. In this same time, more than 15 tons of oyster shell has been collected.
- ✓ The Program is currently undergoing an expansion to include those areas not served by oyster shell collection.



Virginia Green Travel Star Award
accepted by the Virginia Oyster
Shell Recycling Program's Todd Janeski

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